

USPTO Customer No. 25280

Case No. 5635

REMARKS

The applicants thank the Examiner for her kind assistance and thoughtful consideration of this application. The helpful suggestions of the Examiner have been incorporated into this response, by way of Amendments to the claim 1.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. In the most recent Office Action, the obviousness rejection was withdrawn, as the rejection over the Gray prior art reference clearly was overcome. Thus, the only legal issue remaining in this application is the section 112 objection.

Section 112 Objection

The Office Action rejects pending claims 1-14 as claiming the invention in a manner that is stated to be inconsistent. That is, the specification indicates that continuous filament non-textured yarn is used to make at least some of the tufts. But, according to the Office Action, the tufts which have become heated and therefore bulked (shrunk and bloomed) should not be referred to as "non-textured" in the final product. In the Office Action, it is suggested that "non-textured" fiber tufts that are heat treated become textured in the final product. Thus, it is suggested that changes be made to clarify this issue in the claim.

In response to the Office Action, applicant has amended the claim 1 (and by dependency, the other claims) to remedy this issue by incorporating additional limitations. That is, the claim as amended now clarifies the nature of the fibers during manufacture, and after final heating, and the claims as amended are fully enabled for all purposes of Section 112. That is, the claims are directed to a full and complete written

USPTO Customer No. 25280

Case No. 5635

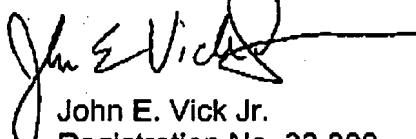
description in full, clear, concise and exact terms so as to enable persons of skill in the art to make and use the invention.

Support in the specification for the claim language is contained in the entire specification and drawings generally, including as well specifically at page 5 (paragraphs [0015], [0016], and [0017]), pages 6-8, page 9 (paragraph [0033]), and pages 17-22, and in Figure 5.

Conclusion:

For the reasons set forth above, all claims now stand in condition for allowance. In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers (including extension of time fees), authorization is hereby provided to withdraw such fees from Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Respectfully submitted,



John E. Vick Jr.
Registration No. 33,808
(864) 503-1383 (phone)
(864) 503-1999 (FAX)

Milliken & Company
920 Milliken Road, M-495
P. O. Box 1926
Spartanburg, SC 29304